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# EMPATHY PLANNER

**A great design challenge starts with an evocative and meaningful empathy experience.** Use this planner to develop a rich empathy activity.

“Deep empathy for people makes our observations powerful sources of inspiration.”

-David Kelley

## Inputs for Inspiration

Planning for empathy means placing students outside of their comfort zone so they sincerely consider a new perspective.

Consider the following examples as you plan an activity:

### Craft an Experience

Ask your students to engage in an experience that breaks the normal routines of the school day. If they're gaining empathy for toddlers, consider having them walk the playground on their knees—they'll see a common space in a new way.

### Experiment with Senses

One way to shift student perspective is to accentuate a sense, or to remove one entirely. Consider using blindfolds, or ear plugs. Alternatively, use music, sound and visuals.

### Use Multi-Media

Whether it be photography, video or another medium, bringing in an artifact can help place students in an empathetic frame of mind.

### Plan to Debrief

It's your job to help students connect the dots between what they experience and insights for design. Make sure you give plenty of time to unpack their empathy activity, and come prepared with a set of questions to help get them there.

## Guiding Questions and Considerations:

*Use the space below to think through your empathy activity*

Summarize the activity you're planning.

What is the relationship of the activity you're planning to the unit of study, course or project?

What do you hope students feel, think, do and learn from this activity?

How will empathy be experiential? In other words, what will students be experiencing and what will they be doing?

How will you prepare students for the empathy activity before they walk in the door? What should they expect? Will a third party need to be contacted beforehand?